

allen den stillen
Geschwistern im Winde
der Wiesen
for Saxophone and Live Electronics

peter gilbert

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Notes to the Performer:

- To make a musical dialogue both parties must listen and both parties must contribute. So in *allen den stillen...* the computer reacts to the instrumentalist's playing but also generates material for the instrumentalist to react to. The computer has a contrapuntally conceived rule-based process for "improvising" a kind of chorale which underpins the piece. Using these harmonies, the program derives melodic constructions which appear to the player as notes on a screen. What the player does with those notes is then captured by microphones and becomes part of the larger electronic framework swirling around the chorale.
- The electronics (which come in the form of a Max/MSP-based application) are performed live by a sensitive musician. This performer must makes choices about balance and highlighting or withholding of various layers of the patch's output. The electronics performer can also constrain, open-up and registrally direct the underpinning chorale. They can work either spontaneously or in a preplanned way with the instrumentalist to make the overall form of the piece satisfying.
- The program note is a translation of one of Rilke's *Die Sonette und Orpheus (Zweiter Teil: XIV)*

Siehe die Blumen, diese dem Irdischen treuen,
denen wir Schicksal vom Rande des Schicksals leihn, –
aber wer weiß es! Wenn sie ihr Welken bereuen,
ist es an uns, ihre Reue zu sein.

Alles will schweben. Da gehn wir umher wie Beschwerer,
legen auf alles uns selbst, vom Gewichte entzückt;
o was sind wir den Dingen für zehrende Lehrer,
weil ihnen ewige Kindheit glückt.

Nähme sie einer ins innige Schlafen und schliefe
tief mit den Dingen –: o wie käme er leicht,
anders zum anderen Tag, aus der gemeinsamen Tiefe.

Oder er bliebe vielleicht; und sie blühten und priesen
ihn, den Bekehrten, der nun den Ihrigen gleicht,
allen den stillen Geschwistern im Winde der Wiesen.

Program Note:

THE SONNETS TO ORPHEUS (II:14)

Take in the flowers, these—the grounded faithful,
to whom we lend fate from the boundary of fate...
but who can know! If they regret their withering,
it is upon us to be their regret.

Everything wants to be weightless. And here we are,

like the encumbrances we lay upon ourselves,
delighted by our own heaviness.

What parasitic teachers we are to these (every)things,
since they are blessed with eternal childhood.

Someone falling into earnest sleep and slumbering
deeply with these (every)things...oh how he would come lightly,
and otherwise to another day out of a mutual depth.

Or he would remain, perhaps, and they would bloom and praise
him, their newly converted, who is now in their likeness,
all these quiet siblings in the winds of the meadows.

(allen den stillen Geschwistern im Winde der Wiesen)

- RAINER MARIE RILKE (trans. Peter Gilbert & Karola Obermüller)